

DECLASSIFIED

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 17, 1953

Ted Achilles came to see me this morning. He wished to review the subject of Embassy reporting, especially in the light of the Secretary's statement to NATO and his press conference. I told him I thought all American officials should be warned of the importance of adhering strictly to the policy laid down by Dulles. Otherwise, foreigners talking to them might, as they have so often done in the past, derive the impression that there are differences in the American Government on this subject. Because of the large number of American officials in different missions in Paris, this requires close coordination. We went at some length into the whole subject of reporting and I discussed the same matter further with Doug MacArthur later in the day.

The Paris press continues in a ferment over the American policy pronouncement on EDC. For the first time the issue has been made plain to the parliamentarians and newspaper readers. Because of the peculiar and almost unique nature of the political institutions of France, conversations with or notes addressed to the French Government seldom percolate through in their original and complete form to the parliamentarians and people since the Government does not control the parliament and since the Cabinet itself is not subject to the disciplines and loyalties that prevail in most parliamentary systems. The so-called "shock method" used by the Secretary has at least had the results which he ^{apparently} desired. The French Parliament is now on notice that there will be a reappraisal of American policy in regard to Europe if it does not soon clearly define its own position on the problems in question.

Mr. Prendergast of Time came to see me to go over the situation resulting from Dulles's remarks.

I had lunch with John Hughes at the Travellers' Club.

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E. went to Versailles to lunch and to attend the presidential election proceedings which commenced today in a colorful atmosphere.

Tonight we attended a large dinner at the Hughes'. Afterwards Monsieur Eljardin, of the Beaux Arts, gave a ~~very~~ polished account of the history of the Hughes' house at 10, rue de Courcelles. This fine building was occupied for some years by Princess Mathilde, and here she presided over her famous salon. Later, as her activities in support of her cousin Napoleon III ~~expanded~~ expanded, she moved to a larger house on the same street. There is an ~~interesting~~ interesting recent biography of her which I have just finished reading.

Mr. Makinsky, head of Coca Cola operations in Europe, told me afterwards that a collateral descendent of Demidoff, Princess Mathilde's husband with whom she was so unhappy, still occupies his magnificent ~~place near~~ place near Florence.

Before we left the Hughes' the returns came in on the second ballot for the presidency. The first ballot was entirely inconclusive as between eight candidates. By the time the second was taken the field had narrowed to four aspirants, namely Messrs. Naegelen of the Socialist Party, Laniel, the Independent, Bidault of MRP, and Delbos of the Radical Socialists. As no one had anything like an absolute majority, the voting will resume tomorrow. Meanwhile, there will be frenzied party conferences and new combinations formed.

E. went off to a dance at Cécile de Rothschild's and I went home.

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